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**SPICY DEBATE.**—In the U. S. Senate, on Monday, the bill making appropriations for the West Point Military Academy for the current year came up.

Mr. Hale offered an amendment providing in effect that none of the appropriations shall be paid to cadets hereafter appointed, unless said appointments are made strictly in accordance with laws.

Mr. Davis suggested the addition of the words "without regard to political faith."

Mr. Hale explained that the object was to prevent the continued appointments of cadets as from Congressional districts to which they did not belong.

A lengthy debate ensued, involving the question of partisan appointments by the Administration, Mr. Doolittle contending that political standing had never been investigated by the Administration in military appointments.

Mr. Davis said he hoped no man was so green as to suppose anybody believed this Administration could appoint any but its own followers.

Mr. Sumner called the attention of Mr. Davis to the fact that the first General, appointed from Massachusetts, was a Democrat fresh from the Charleston Convention.

Mr. Davis—yes, Gen. Butler! God save us from such Democrats! He's the meanest and most contemptible democrat that ever walked the face of the earth. He would sell himself, for a sufficient consideration, every day in the week.

Mr. Wilson said that the political status had never been raised in the consideration of military nominations. In the 37th Congress, the Military Committee considered 6,823 nominations, and has considered about 2,000 so far during this session. He went on to show that in each of the New England States even, a majority of the General officers appointed and confirmed were Democrats. Of fourteen Generals from Kentucky, only one supported Mr. Lincoln; and of the hundreds of General officers in the entire service, hardly one-third are Republicans.

Mr. Conness said that the five General officers appointed from California, including General Halleck, were all Democrats.

Mr. Howe contended that no Administration since the days of Washington had been so liberal in regard to appointments as this, not only in the military but the civil departments. The only question had been, did the person wish to see the United States succeed in this contest. You could not get a man of that sort removed, if he had been a Democrat all his life. The Administration was so anxious to avoid a party question that the first vacancy in the Cabinet was filled with a Democrat—one whose Democracy was so unquestionable that he was found suitable for Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet.

Mr. Saulsbury begged that the gentleman from Wisconsin would not humiliate and afflict us so much again as to remind us that that man was ever a Democrat.

Mr. Howe thought that the gentleman from Delaware would be benefited by remembering that Mr. Stanton was a Democrat, and recommending him to reflect upon Democracy as illustrated by the loyalty of the Secretary of War.

Mr. Saulsbury said he would not allow himself to be disturbed by any such consideration.

Mr. Howe said he hoped it would not hurt the gentleman's feelings to know that the bulk of the Democrats were in support of the Administration.

Mr. Saulsbury said it did not hurt him in the least.

Mr. Howe went on to show that, during the late elections, the Administration had voted for war Democrats in many cases, and instanced that of Gov. Brough, of Ohio, and other officers in New York.

Mr. Davis urged that the whole war policy of the Administration had been changed from what it was originally, and that no one was appointed to office who did not subscribe to that change. Those who held to the original avowal of the objects of the war in the Crittenden resolutions were pronounced disloyal. He considered those who held to that policy as the only true Union men. He regarded the Administration as having been very proscriptive in making appointments, and said that if the Senate would give him an examining committee he thought he could prove that nine-tenths of the appointments of this Administration were from its own followers. As for Democrats, its appointments of them are of such men as the Adjutant General of the army who, if he was correctly informed, at one time had his trunk packed, ready to go into rebellion; and General Butler, who voted fifty-seven times for Breckinridge, in the Charleston Convention, and such other men as had sold themselves for Government pay.

Additional advices by the steamer Jura state that the English Ministry had recently escaped defeat on a mere party division in the House of Commons by a majority of one vote only. The rumor that the Archduke Maximilian has renounced his intention of going to Mexico is entirely unfounded. The King of Denmark in a recent speech strongly advocated a vigorous perseverance. There has been no fighting in Schleswig. Gen. Gerlach had succeeded De Mega as commander-in-chief of the Danish army. Bonds of the Confederate loan to the extent of 71,000 pounds repayable at par, were drawn in London on the 1st of March. The Archduke Maximilian's visit to Paris is further postponed. The correspondence relative to the capture of the British bark Saxon, has been published, and the Government maintain that, if the facts, as set forth, be true, the Federal officer was guilty of murdering the mate of the Saxon. They demand that he shall be tried for the offence; that compensation shall be made to the widow of the murdered man, and also to the owners of the vessel for the loss sustained by her seizure. In the House of Lords, Earl Russell was asked what steps the Government had taken to put a stop to recruiting in Ireland for the Federal army. He stated that complaint had more than once been made on the subject to Mr. Adams, but that the latter had met those complaints with an indignant denial. Nothing, therefore, he said, could be done until actual proof of the fact was obtained.

The French Admiral, in the Pacific, has declared the Mexican ports of Manzanilla and Acapulco to be under blockade until further notice.

## U. S. Military Order.

The following order has been issued from the U. S. War Department:

War Department, Adjutant General's Office,  
Washington, D. C., March 12, 1864.

The President of the United States orders as follows:

I. Major General Halleck is at his own request relieved from duty as General-in-Chief of the Army, and Lieutenant General U. S. Grant is assigned to the command of the armies of the United States. The headquarters of the army will be in Washington, and also with Lieutenant General Grant in the field.

II. Major General Halleck is assigned to duty in Washington, as chief of staff of the army, under the direction of the Secretary of War, and the Lieutenant General commanding. His orders will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

III. Major General W. T. Sherman, is assigned to the command of the military division of the Mississippi, composed of the departments of the Ohio, the Cumberland, the Tennessee and the Arkansas.

IV. Major General J. B. McPherson is assigned to the command of the Department and Army of the Tennessee.

V. In relieving Major General Halleck from duty as General-in-Chief, the President desires to express his approbation and thanks for the able and zealous manner in which the arduous and responsible duties of that position have been performed.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

The Federal gunboat expedition up the Wachita river, Louisiana, encountered opposition. A place called Trinity was found to be strongly fortified and a heavy fire was opened upon the flagship Hieman, compelling her to retire in a damaged condition, with the loss of two men killed and eight wounded. The flag was then transferred to the gunboat Ouchita, whose powerful guns it is said, silenced the Confederate batteries, consisting of three thirty-two-pounders, but it does not appear that the battery was captured. The Ouchita was damaged. Further up the river Harrisonburg was burned. The gunboat Comestoga, with a cargo of ammunition, came in collision with the General Price on the Mississippi River, on the 10th instant, and was sunk. She will prove a total loss. This news comes from Cairo.

The ship Star of the West, which reached New York yesterday from Liverpool, reports the probable total loss of the iron-clad frigate Re de Italia, constructed at New York for the Italian Government. On March 7th the Star of the West saw a large man of war, which reported herself the Re de Italia, with her main topmast gone and in a sinking condition. The Star of the West was requested to lie by all night and accompany the frigate to the nearest land. Signals of blue lights and rockets were not answered by the frigate after 9 o'clock P. M. of the 7th and on the next morning nothing was to be seen of the man-of-war. It was supposed that she sank with all on board. The frigate had a crew of four hundred officers and men.

To-morrow is St. Patrick's Day.